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"perfit practisour" had to understand how to choose his hours for the preparation and administration of his remedies.

To ll. 12-14 Prof. SKEAT makes a strange innovation, printing them thus:—

"Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages
(And palmers for to seken straunge strondes)
To ferne halwes."

The syntax would then be "to goon on pilgrimages to ferne halwes," a construction most awkwardly and un-Chaucerly split in two by l. 13 driven in like a wedge. And in his note he remarks "Chaucer has 'to go seken halwes,'" a reading which his text makes impossible.

I am glad to see that in the brief life of CHAUCER prefixed there is no reference to the *raptus* of Cecilia Chaumpayne, which has most unpardonably been allowed to stand in previous editions without explanation, leading students to suppose that the poet was guilty of abominable crime. I have no doubt that the offence with which CHAUCER was charged was that known as *raptus heredis*, or unlawfully taking an heir or heiress from the custody of his or her feudal guardian. See the 'Provisions of Merton' (1235-6) and also 13 Edw. I, c. 35 (1285) *De raptu heredis*, where the writ runs . . . "quare talem heredem infra aetatem, cujus maritagium ad ipsum A [the guardian] pertinet, rapuit et abduxit" etc., and the whole text shows that the *raptus* is simple abduction, the punishment being imprisonment, while that for rape was death. Moreover, rape being a plea of the crown, the injured party could not release the offender as Cecilia released CHAUCER. When we consider how these wardships were bestowed under the Plantagenets, we can easily see that CHAUCER'S offence may have been an act of the purest humanity.

I take this opportunity to note an error in Mr. SKEAT'S edition of the Minor Poems. In 'B. D.' ll. 1020-28 he prints:

..... she woulde not . . .
... sende men into Walakye . . .
To Alisaundre, ne into Turkye
And bid him faste, anon that he
Go hoodles into the drye se.

Here the comma should be taken from "faste" and put after "Turkye." "Faste anon" means "immediately thereafter."

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WENDELSÆ.

RECENT editors of the "Elene" have made of this word a difficulty where there was none; and have done so, I think, by making etymology rather than usage their guide.

In prose I find the word in 'Boethius,'¹ the 'Chronicle,'² and frequently in 'Orosius' ³; of course other texts may furnish more examples, but these are sufficient. While I agree with SCHILLING⁴ that the word is used with some looseness of signification, I concur in the note of FOX⁵: "Wendel Sae; the Wendel Sea.—This was either the whole of the Mediterranean Sea, or that part of it which is called the Adriatic." And I justify THORPE⁶ in *uniformly* rendering it 'Mediterranean.' Such is its regular prose usage.

Is it likely that the word has any other meaning? Has poetry made a common noun out of a place name?

I think not.

The word is omitted from the 'Handy Anglo-Saxon Dictionary' of HARRISON and BASKERVILL, and yet it occurs in "Elene," and in the 'Metres of Boethius' (xxvi, line 61).⁷ In the latter passage the poet is avowedly paraphrasing the prose version. Hence, *wendelsæ* of the poem is identical with *wendelsæ* of the prose; and therefore, the Mediterranean. TUPPER, it is true, in his *free* translation renders "midwinding sea," but that is not a blemish in a version so inaccurate. He has evidently translated without regard to the prose original.

How then can we escape rendering *wendelsæ*, "Elene" 231, *Mediterranean Sea*? The queen sets off on her journey either from Rome or from Constantinople. In either case she must traverse the Mediterranean, and the poet knows it; for the poem makes mention of places and persons not nearly so prominent, and there can be no doubt that Cynewulf was possessed of a sufficient knowledge of the rela-

¹ FOX'S edition, London, 1864, p. 194.

² Parker MS. Annal 885, EARLE'S edition, p. 84; PLUMMER, p. 30.

³ SWEET'S edition, p. 8 (four times); 12 (twice); 14 (twice); 22 (seven times), etc.

⁴ "König Aelfred's Angelsächsische Bearbeitung der Weltgeschichte des Orosius," p. 9.

⁵ 'Boethius,' p. 358.

⁶ 'Alfred's Anglo-Saxon Version of Orosius,' London, 1853 (bound with PAULI'S 'Life of Alfred the Great').

⁷ Cited by FOX'S unsatisfactory text, on page 335. In GREEN, it would be line 312.

